

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8846

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - SEABOARD SERVICES

REF: LONDON 718

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF NEW SEABOARD SCHEDULE
FILED WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRADE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE APRIL
1. NEW SCHEDULE CALLS FOR SIX WEEKLY 747F SERVICES NEW
YORK-LONDON-PARIS-LONDON-NEW YORK WITH SEVENTH DAY COVERED
BY STRETCH DC-8 FLIGHT. (PRESENT SCHEDULE CONTAINS THREE
WEEKLY 747F AND FOUR DC-8 NEW YORK-LONDON TURNAROUND
SERVICES.) SEABOARD ALSO PLANS ROUTE ITS DAILY DC-8
ITALIAN SERVICES BACK THROUGH LONDON INSTEAD OF THROUGH
SHANNON AS IS PRESENTLY THE CASE. IN ADDITION, FIVE WEEK-
LY DC-8 SERVICES TO SWISS POINTS WILL OPERATE THROUGH
LONDON IN BOTH DIRECTIONS.

2. NEW SEABOARD SCHEDULE WAS ALLUDED TO BY SEABOARD VP
(BLAKE) AND WASHINGTON COUNSEL (FISHER) WHEN THEY CALLED
ON DEPARTMENT OF TRADE UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS ON JAN. 15
(SEE REFTEL). AT THAT TIME ROGERS SAID UK WOULD TAKE
CLOSE LOOK AT CAPACITY INCREASE THAT WOULD RESULT FROM
NEW SCHEDULE. WE KNOW OF NOTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE
SEABOARD-ROGERS CONVERSATION THAT WOULD LEAD UK TO VIEW
SEABOARD SCHEDULE CHANGE IN DIFFERENT LIGHT. ON CONTRARY,
WE WOULD INTERPRET ROGERS REMARKS DURING US-UK CONSULTA-
TIONS JAN. 24 AS CLEAR INDICATION THAT BRITISH GROWING
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INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT BRITISH AIRWAYS BEING

SQUEEZED OUT OF US-UK AIR CARGO MARKET BY NEW AND IMPROVED SERVICES BEING OFFERED BY SEABOARD.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE HAD NO CONTACT WITH UK AVIATION AUTHORITIES CONCERNING NEW SEABOARD SCHEDULE BUT WE BELIEVE THAT IN LIGHT OF RECENT HISTORY ON SEABOARD SERVICES IN LONDON MARKET, IT QUITE LIKELY THAT UK WILL USE NEW SEABOARD FILING AS BASIS TO REQUEST CAPACITY CONSULTATIONS ON US-UK CARGO SERVICES. IN MORE NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, WE WOULD EXPECT BRITISH TO PROCEED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT, PERMIT SCHEDULES TO GO INTO EFFECT AND THEN CALL FOR EX POST FACTO CAPACITY REVIEW AFTER BRIEF EXPERIENCE WITH NEW CAPACITY REGIME. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT, IN ADDITION TO BRITISH CONCERN FOR PROTECTING BA'S SHARE OF CARGO MARKET, THEY ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR POINTS AT WHICH THEY WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY PRESSURE ON USG FOR ISSUANCE OF LAKER SKY-TRAIN PERMIT AND THEY MAY VIEW SEABOARD SCHEDULE AS USEFUL CANDIDATE. ACCORDINGLY, WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT NEW SCHEDULE WILL BE ROUTINELY APPROVED.

RICHARDSON

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